

The Westfield Traffic Commission

September 19, 2018

RECEIVED

The Westfield Traffic Commission meeting was held on Wednesday, September 19, 2018, in Room 315A at 59 Court Street, Westfield, MA.

Roll Call: Comm. Camerota – Absent – Comm. Billips – Present - Comm. Cressotti – Present - Comm. Boldini – Present – Comm. Clark – Present

FEB 7 2019
10:45 AM
WESTFIELD CITY CLERK

Due to the absence of Chairperson Camerota, Commissioner Boldini made a motion to appoint Commissioner Billips as temporary Chairperson for this meeting. Commissioner Clark seconded that motion. All in favor.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES DATED JUNE 20, 2018 AND AUGUST 14, 2018:

Commissioner Cressotti made a motion to approve the minutes dated June 20, 2018. Commissioner Boldini seconded that motion. All in favor.

Commissioner Boldini made a motion to approve the minutes dated August 14, 2018. Commissioner Cressotti seconded that motion. All in favor.

OPEN PARTICIPATION

Residents of Root Road addressed the Commission regarding no parking on Root Road. The Traffic Commission had previously voted to approve putting up no parking signs on Root Road. Those signs still have not been installed. Commissioner Billips will look into this and have them installed as soon as possible.

Residents of Papermill Road addressed the Commission regarding the truck exclusion that was submitted to the Mass DOT. They are concerned that the exclusion was only submitted for evening hours. They would prefer the request to be submitted for 24 hours a day. They understand that this will not exclude a truck that has business on this road. The City will just have to add the additional hours that they want excluded and send the request back to the state. DOT will then review it and make a decision. The Commission will look into this. City Councilor Onyski said this was about to go before City Council for a vote, but he pulled it out and sent it back to Committee so that will give the Commission a little bit of time to get it figured out. The residents are also concerned with where the signage will be installed once the exclusion goes into effect. They would like to be sure the signs are placed at a reasonable location so the truck drivers will have a sufficient area to turn around or seek an alternate route. Commissioner Billips said he feels this is a matter of educating the businesses of the exclusion as well.

Chris Paton of Long Pond Road addressed the Commission. She said that on the agenda it lists the topic of speed on Long Pond Road. She said there was a study done in the past. She said cars are always speeding on this road. It is a long road with curves and walking on it can be difficult at times.

Ken Hall of Holyoke Road asked the Commission when the crosswalk lines will be put back on East Silver Street. Commissioner Billips said that the DPW is in the process of having that done now.

OLD BUSINESS:

Truck Traffic – Michael Drive/Woodsong: The Commission decided to table this item to a later date.

Speed – Michael Drive/Woodsong: The Commission decided to table this item to a later date.

Westwood – Northern Most Entrance: Commissioner Boldini had spoken with the owner of the Westwood Restaurant who had said he would put up a sign. He has not done this yet. Commissioner Boldini will follow up with the owner.

Crosswalk – Pearl Street at Pleasant – Tabled from 6/20/18: The Commission decided to table this item to a later date.

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Fire Dept Repair Station (no parking signs): Commissioner Boldini had discussed this with Chief Regan before she retired. She agreed and the Fire Commission had agreed to post the sign. They asked Chris Bard to look into what sign needs to be put up. Commissioner Boldini will follow up on this.

Business District – Define for Establishment of a 25 MPH Speed Limit: The Commission decided to table this item to a later date.

Update on Recommendations Sent to Council: Councilor Onyski said everything is fine.

Speed Study – Long Pond Road – Mrs. Mazella: Lori Mazella of 92 Long Pond Road said that speeding has gotten dangerous on this road. Residents are afraid to walk on this road. She understands speed limits don't always slow people down. She said the speed study showed over 1,000 cars traveling this road in 2 days. This was just in one direction. The study also showed 46% of the traffic was traveling over 25 MPH. Currently the speed limit is 30 MPH. There are no signs posting the speed. Commissioner Billips said that having a speed trailer that will show the speed limit and the speed the driver is going helps slow down the traffic. Mrs. Mazella said that she would allow the speed trailer to be placed in her yard or driveway. She said placing it going southbound will be best. She said she would like this to be readdressed at a later meeting. The Commission agreed to put the trailer up and see how that helps and if the problem continues, they will look into reducing the speed limit.

NEW BUSINESS:

No Turn on Red – Vehicles East on Franklin St Making a Right Turn onto Elm St Southbound: Jonathan McHatton addressed the Commission. He said he has noticed drivers who are turning right from Franklin Street onto Elm Street are usually looking to the left for oncoming traffic. If a pedestrian is crossing from the right side across Elm Street, the driver does not see the pedestrian until they are already making the turn. He feels this is a safety issue. Commissioner Billips said that he thinks this is a good idea. Commissioner Boldini agreed. He said this is a congested area. Commissioner Cressotti said he could go either way on this, but he wouldn't object to try it and see how it goes. Commissioner Cressotti made a motion to add a no turn on red sign on the corner of Franklin Street (Eastbound) turning onto Elm Street (Southbound) for a trial period. Commissioner Boldini seconded this motion. All in favor.

No Turn on Red – Washington for Vehicles Turning Right onto Franklin St - Eastbound: Commission decided to table this item to a later date.

Signage Requested at Clock Tower for Vehicles South on Elm St Turning Left (front of Holy Trinity Church) Onto Elm

Street Northbound (Meadow St – N Elm): Commissioner Clark said he notices that drivers stop short ahead of the light, where they can turn on red. The Commission believes there is already signage there telling drivers to pull up to the line. The Commission will look into this and discuss it at a later date.

Westfield Industrial Park Way (Holiday Inn) - Councilor Onyski: Councilor Onyski said, when traveling from Springdale Road to the Mass Turnpike, there is a stop sign across from the Holiday Inn. When stopped at this stop sign, in order to see the oncoming traffic to the right, a driver has to pull far out. He is looking to have the stop sign moved or an additional stop sign added. Commissioner Boldini made a motion to add a stop sign on Westfield Industrial Park Way for Southbound traffic at the 4 way intersection. Commissioner Clark seconded that motion. All in favor.

Holyoke Road & Springdale Road Intersection – Councilor Onyski: Councilor Onyski said that there are numerous accidents at the intersection of Holyoke Road and Springdale Road. There are blinking lights on Springdale to alert a driver to stop at the intersection. He is not sure what is causing the accidents. He feels there is a clear view of oncoming traffic when stopped at the stop sign on Springdale Road. Residents have offered suggestions such as stop lights, blinking overhead lights or a 4 way stop. Commissioner Billips said a 4 way stop is not feasible. Holyoke Road is a heavily traveled busy road. He feels there are accidents because it is a tight intersection and can be hard to see due to the landscaping. If people are running late, there could also be a speeding issue. Commissioner Boldini said this issue is nothing new. When he was in charge of the Police Traffic Department there was a significant accident at this intersection. He said at that time he reviewed the reports of other accidents that had previously occurred over the course of the previous 8 years at this intersection and the number one cause was that they didn't see an oncoming vehicle after looking both ways. A 4-way stop will cause trucks to stop on Holyoke Road. They will have to use their brakes. This will also cause deterioration to the road. He suggests maybe an overhead yellow flashing sign. Commissioner Billips said a sign with blinking lights warning of a dangerous intersection on Holyoke Road in both

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directions might help. The Commission agreed to look into the cost and address this at a later meeting. Commissioner Billips said in the meantime, they will put up an orange dangerous intersection sign (Westbound) and see if that helps.

Crosswalk on Franklin St at Franklin Ave School – Police Traffic Bureau – Request for 20 MPH School Zone Lights to be Updated and Flashing Crosswalk Signs: The Commission will speak to the Traffic Bureau further on this and revisit it at a later meeting.

Safety Issues – Councilor Emmershly:

1. **Intersection of Dickinson Place & Mountain View St:** Councilor Emmershly said that this is a 4 way intersection with no signage or lines painted on the road. The residents have expressed concern about the college traffic using this intersection. They also believe it will get worse as construction begins in that area. They would like to see a stop sign on Mountain View. They feel this will reduce the incentive for traffic cutting through that way. Commissioner Boldini said he could see a stop sign placed on the minor street, but not on the major street. He said you cannot use a stop sign to control speed. Commissioner Billips said this is to avoid traffic cutting through and not to control speed. Commissioner Clark asked if a local traffic only sign could be put up. Commissioner Boldini said it's non-enforceable. He said he would rather the Commission look at this before they make a decision. Commissioner Billips said he would like to see a sign put up temporarily. Commissioner Cressotti said he agrees with Commissioner Billips on this. He thinks putting the stop sign on Mountain View is a good idea. Commissioner Boldini said he would prefer if this was tabled for the next meeting. Commissioner Billips said his issue with tabling this is that the next meeting isn't until December which means a whole semester of college and college related traffic will go by before the Commission meets again. He wants to put up the stop sign temporarily. Commissioner Cressotti made a motion to put up a temporary stop sign, pending no objection from Commissioner Camerota, and review of the most recent traffic study, on Mountain View Street at the intersection of Dickinson Place (West bound). Commissioner Clark seconded that motion.

Commissioner Billips – Yes – Commissioner Cressotti – Yes – Commissioner Boldini – No – Commissioner Clark – Yes

Commissioner Cressotti requested that this item be placed on the December Traffic Commission agenda for further review.

2. **Intersection of Jefferson St. & Hampden St:** Councilor Emmershly said that the issue is that there are children walking to school on this street. There are no stop signs and traffic is rolling through these streets at the intersections. The residents are concerned for the safety of the children. Commissioner Cressotti made a motion to put up a stop sign on Hampden St., Northbound, at Jefferson St. Commissioner Boldini seconded that motion. All in favor.
3. **Intersection of Jefferson St & Madison St:** Councilor Emmershly said the same issue that is happening on Jefferson St & Hampden St is happening at this intersection. Commissioner Cressotti made a motion to put up a stop sign on Madison St., Southbound, at Jefferson St. Commissioner Clark seconded that motion. All in favor.

No Parking Here to Corner – West Side of Fowler St. at Intersection with Meadow St: Councilor Emmershly said that while he did not request this item to be on the agenda, he is a resident of Fowler St. He has noticed that since the gas station at the end of the street was torn down and a new home was constructed, parents are parking in front of the new house during bus pick up times in the morning. It makes it difficult for the residents of this house to get in and out of their driveway. He believes that might be the reason this item is on the agenda. Commissioner Boldini made a motion to table this item so that the Commission can get more information. Commissioner Cressotti seconded that motion. All in favor.

Request for 2 Handicap Parking Spaces – One on Academy St – One on Broad St: Commissioner Boldini made a motion to table this item for a later meeting. Commissioner Cressotti seconded that motion. All in favor.

Caution – Watch for Children – Clinton Ave: Commissioner Cressotti made a motion to table this item for a later meeting. Commissioner Boldini seconded that motion. All in favor.

East Mountain Road Underpass – Councilor Onyski: Councilor Onyski said that there have been issues at this underpass with truck traffic. A truck driver will either get stuck under this bridge or get to the bridge and have to back up due to clearance issues. He is looking to have a sign installed closer to the beginning of the road to give the truck drivers time to turn around. There are 3 signs from the Holyoke Rd side that warn of a low bridge. Commissioner Billips said that the underpass will more likely never be raised. He said that educating the truck drivers is the best solution. He feels the problem is trucks that shouldn't

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be in the neighborhood are there. Commissioner Cressotti suggested that a sign be placed in front of Western Mass Hospital in order to give a truck driver the option to turn around. Commissioner Billips said that he will have a flashing sign which states the underpass height, installed at Western Mass Hospital Southbound.

Sandy Hill Road – Tractor Trailer Traffic and Speeding – Councilor Onyski: Councilor Onyski said that Jake Barton is here tonight. He is a resident of 60 Sandy Hill Road. He has concerns of speed and tractor trailer traffic going down Sandy Hill Road and Dry Bridge Road. Commissioner Billips said that he feels this will have to be looked into further. He will also look to have more traffic enforcement done. He said he would like to speak with Commissioner Camerota further and discuss this again at a future meeting.

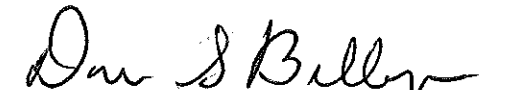
Request for No Engine Brake Sign – Upper Notre Dame: The Commission tabled this item for a later meeting.

Next Meeting – December 19, 2018

7:00 PM Commissioner Boldini made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Cressotti seconded the motion. All in favor.



Mark Cressotti, Member



David Billips, Member



Brian Boldini, Member



Richard Clark, Member